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Jul 19 1999 12:14

July 5, 1999

Jane Henney, MD
Commissioner, FDA (HF-1)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Doctor Henney:

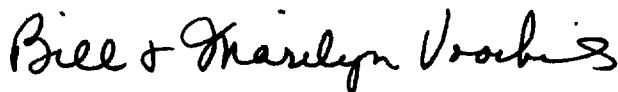
We fear a public health crisis is looming: diseases which have long been controlled by antibiotics are becoming increasingly difficult to treat, as they have become highly resistant to antibiotics.

Scientists are convinced that drugs given to animal play a key role in antibiotic resistance in human diseases. For decades antibiotics have been used both to treat diseases and to promote growth in hogs, cows, and chickens. Almost a third of the antibiotics manufactured in the USA each year are added to animal feed to fatten animals cheaply, this in spite of the fact that there are other means to accomplish this at reasonable prices.

The World Health Organization recommends a ban on the use of medically important antibiotics to promote animal growth. The United States should also adopt this position. Withdrawal of the drugs for growth promotion would still allow their use in sick animals.

PLEASE favor sick children over cheap chickens!

Sincerely,



Bill & Marilyn Voorhies

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